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HEALTH OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR 1866-7, ENDING JUNE 30, 1867.

ISAAC ROWELL, M. D.,

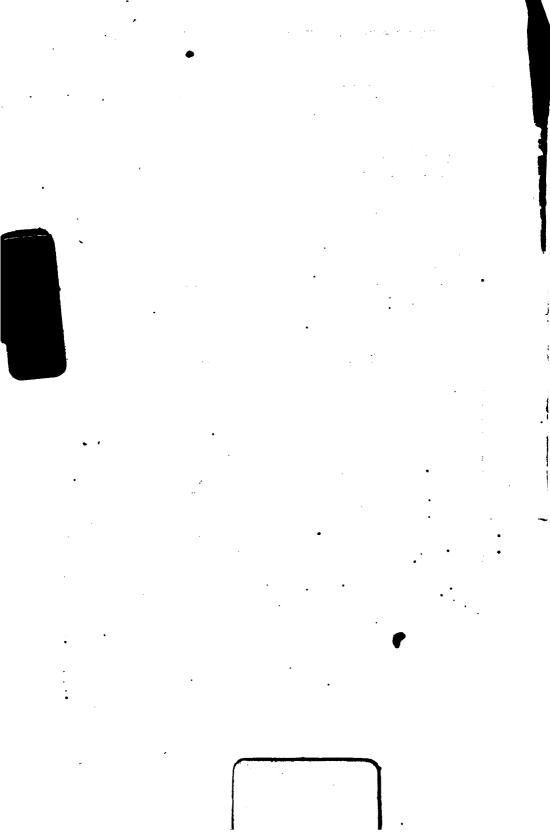
HEALTH OFFICER.



SAN FRANCISCO:

JOSEPH WINTERBURN & CO., PRINTERS AND ELECTROTYPERS, No. 417 Clay Street, between Sansome and Battery Streets.

1867



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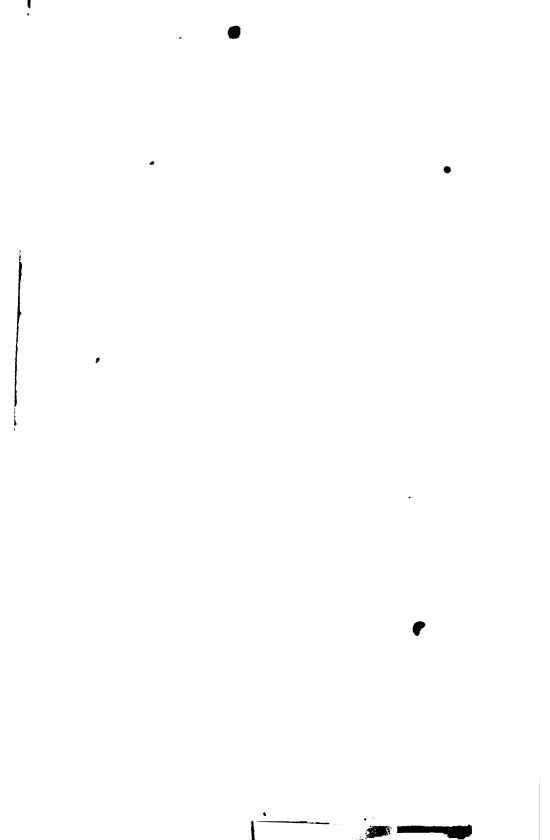
BEALTH OFFICER.



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1867



HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT.

To the Honorable the President and Board of Supervisors

Of the City and County of San Francisco,

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor of submitting to you my Report of the affairs of this Bureau for the fiscal year ending June, 1867.

Although the Mortuary Statistics are as correct as it is possible to make them from our present sources of information, it is much to be regretted that they are not more comprehensive, as statistical tables for reference in future years, but which is owing to the want of the registration of births, in this office.

The infant mortality for the past year is unquestionably very large, notwithstanding the hygienic measures used to better the sanitary condition of the city. This is a matter of great importance to the future welfare of our State, and to which I will allude in its proper place in this Report.

It should be a source of gratification to the community to know, that owing to our invigorating climate, the death record will compare favorably with any city in the Union, of comparative population, notwithstanding the well-known fact that San Francisco is the City of Refuge for the halt, the lame, and the blind of the Pacific coast. In this connection, I would remark, that it is more easy to satisfy mankind of the value of any other branch of statistics than that which relates to the number that die annually, their ages, sex, occupation, condition, and nativity, and the causes which produce such deaths; the consequence is that the facts remain uncollected

or unrecorded—hence, while everybody seems busy enough, in our practical, money making State, in running after information regarding the fluctuations of stocks and matters relating to mineral discoveries—investigations having for their object sanitary improvement are either lost sight of, or are pursued in a slower manner than those which relate to real estate, the life of man being considered of less importance than commercial interests.

In the absence of official data, we have to be guided by the "City Directory" for 1867, which is allowed to be the most correct means of information in the State. The Directory rates the population of the city at one hundred and thirty-five thousand; and if we continue the same ratio of increase per annum for the next six years, San Francisco will rate as the tenth city, in the order of population, in the Union. Who would have dreamed of this seventeen years ago, when canvas tents were the rule and frame buildings the exception on the peninsula of Yerba Buena? But the canvas has disappeared, and the houses of wood have given place to those of brick and stone, and structures have been built that would do credit to any of our Eastern cities, and all this has been accomplished in less than two decades.

The following table will show the number of deaths for the year ending June 30th, 1867:

SUMMARY OF DEATHS.

Caucasian	161
Total	2,522
Males	1,669 853
Total	2,522

Adults	
Total	2,522

Table 1 will give the number and cause of death, the Ward in which the death occurred; also, deaths in Public Institutions, casualties, suicides, with their age and sex.

INTERMENTS IN THE CITY OF SAN

	Total							A	GB8.							
Cause of Death.		Under 1 year	Betw'n 1 & 9	Betw'n 3 & 5	Bet. 5 & 10	Bet. 10 & 15.	Bet. 15 & 20.	Bet. 20 & 30.	Bet. 30 & 40.	Bet. 40 & 50.	Bet. 50 & 60.	Bet. 60 & 70.	Bet. 70 & 80.	Bet. 80 & 90.	Bet. 0 & 100	5
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Anemia	12	6	1	1		1				1	2					
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Abscess of liver	5		• • •			• • •		•••	2	3			• • •			• •
Abscess lumbar	3 1		•••	••••	••••	:::	:::	1	2	··i			• • •	• • •		• •
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Angina pectoris	2			1					1							
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Aneurism of the heart	4								2		ī	î				• •
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Bright's disease	2		2	2		•••		•••	3		1	• • • •	1	:::		•
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Convulsions puerperal	2		٠٠;					2	٠٠;	.::			• • •		.	•
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Cholera infantum	54	38			l											
Croup	37 4	5	8		7	1		•••;			$ \cdot\cdot; $		• • •	1 ($\cdot \cdot \cdot $	•
Cirrhosis	8	1				•••	:::	1 2		1	1 3		···i	:::		•
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Cancer on face	1			:::				.		i i						
Cancer of mouth	1		1													
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FRANCISCO, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1867.

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949	532	1969	53	16	80	147	25	141			90	182	72	246	190	45	281	55	

TABLE

		_			==	=	==	=		==	===	===	_	_	_	=
	Total							A	GBA.							
Cause of Death.	Total	-	ţ	8	Bet.	Bet.	Bet.	Bet	Bet.	Bet.	Bet	Bet.	Bet.	Bet.	Bet.	g
0220 0. 20.00		Under 1	Betw'a	Betw'n	21	f. 10	5	23	91. 3 0	st. 40	75	3	70	. 30	ı. 90	Unknown
		l year	1 &	2.0	Ø 10	80	87	8 7	8	87	87	& 70	87	₽	35	4,
	<u> </u>	- ž	40	51	-	19.	20.	8	5	δo.	-	· 0	.e 	—	100	:
Brought forward Injuries, falling of lumber	1479 1	366	120	136	73	21	26	160	237	191	89	54	15			4
Injuries from fall	5				1			2		'n		ï				
Injuries from burns	13 2	1	• • •	4	1	+ • ×	1	2	2	···i	ï	• • •		• • •	• •	2
Injuries, run over by steam cars Injuries, run over by horse cars.	1		• • •	***	i		1						:::		•••	::
Injuries, run over by wagon	1									1						
Injuries, caving of earth Injuries from scalding	4	··;	i	1 2				• • •	3		[• • •]		• • •	• • • •	• •	• •
Injuries from machinery	3				1			ï		:::	i				•	
Injuries, internal	1				1	+ • •						!				
Injuries from knife wound Injuries of spine	2 2				.54	•••			2 2		• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		• •
Injuries of head	1		11						ا ٔ	ï						
Injuries, bursting of steam drum	11						ģ	2	8	1		ļ				
Injuries, explosion of lamp Injuries, falling of building	8	• • •	• 15				• • •	1 3	5			• • •	• • • •	• • •	• •	• •
Inanition	23		3	:::	1		:::		ľi	l''i						• •
Infanticide	1	1														
Intussusception	3 147	35		14	5	5		1 18	18	20		5	···i	• • •	••	ï
Inflammation of brain	30	9	3	4	3	1	¥	1	5	3				• • •	::	
Inflammation of bladder	1	١						· · ·								
Jaundice Leprosy	2 1		• • •				4	2	• • •	ļ	• • • •	· i	• • •	• • •	· ·	•••
Laryngitis	6		i			2	5	l:::		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	··i			:::	::	
Malformation	1	1			4.44			ļ <u>.</u>		٠٠.				ار. ٠ ٠	١	
Meningitis	71 58		18	13	5	3	1	3	1	2 2	1	 	1	1		• •
Mania a potu	2								2							
Metrorrhagia	1				4.4.4		à		1		• • •	• • • •	'		٠.	
Myelitis	1 3	1	. 13	***	1	***			···;				• • • •	• • •		• •
Obstipation	i							l''i							::	
Old age	10				400	4.04		 		· · ·		3	3	3	1	• •
Ossification of valves of heart Occlusion of bowels	1			+				l		l · · ·		1,	• • • •	· · ·		•••
Organic disease of stomach	i								i i	:::		:::			::	::
Ovaritis	1				+ > +		ķ	 	1							••
Pistol shot	33		:::	100			ð.,	i			1	1	l:::		::	
Pericarditis	9	2			+++	2	Ç.	1	1	2	1					
Paralysis	36		1	***	+ + +		,	5	15	5	4	5	1	• • •		·;
Phthisis Peritonitis	324 25		2	3	2	1	14	106	109 5	54 5	21 2	9		ıi	::	1
Pyemia	14			1	44.	î	1	i	5	5	ī			ļ <u>-</u>		
Pneumothorax	2							• • •	2		• • •	• • •		• • •		
Phlegmatia dolens	3		135		430	* * *		l'i	1		i		l''i	• • • •		
Phlebitis	2						(L)	ļ	2				l		::	
Rupture of blood vessel	2				413			1		1	• • •	• • •			٠٠	• •
Rheumatism	2 2		i		133	+++	i	:::	1	1	:::				::	::
Rubeola	7	2		4			y.			ļ				 		
Suicide	29 33			+	+++	+++	*	13	11 10	7 5	2 2	·	• • •			
Syphilis Scrofula	10		:::	i	***	***	2	13	3			•		:::	1::	::
Softening of brain	23	1		2	1		ĩ		7	4	6	1		 		
Sphacelus	1 4		٠.,	·"i	100			1	··i	··i		· · ·	• • •			• •
Scurvy Strangulated hernia	i						1	 :::	1			:::		l:::	::	::
•		-		-	-	١	-	-					-		H	-
Carried forward	2465	541	177	188	i 96	38	48	344	467	316	145	81	22	5	1	9

I---Continued.

Sı	ıx.		Race							WAR	> 0.					_	Pu	Ç	9
Male	Female	Caucasian	Mongolian	African	let Ward	2d Ward	3d Ward	4th Ward	6th Ward	6th Ward	7th Ward	8th Ward	9th Ward	10th Ward .	11th Ward	19th Ward	Public Institutions.	Casualties	Suicides
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1634	833	227	159	38	142	217	53	208	49	101	132	195	111	379	196	70	469	118	29

TABLE

	Total							A	GES.							
Cause of Death.		Under 1 year	Betw'n 1 & 2	Betw'n 2 & 5	Bet, 5 & 10	Bet. 10 & 15.	Bet. 15 & 20.	Bet. 20 & 30.	Bet. 30 & 40.	Pet. 40 & 50.	Bet. 50 & 60.	Bet. 60 & 70.	Bet. 70 & 80.	Bet. 80 & 90	Bet. 90 & 100	Спкноми
Brought forward	2467	541	177	188	96	38	48	344	457	315	145	81	22	5	1	1
Stomatitis	1	1											22.2	100		
Septaemia	1								1		200					
Tabes dorsalis	1				***						1					
Tabes mesenterica	7	5		1	1											
Tetanus	6	1		1				1	1	3						
Tumor abdominal	3									3						
Tumor ovarian	2								1		1					
Tumor on brain	1						. 44			1					++	
Tumor uterine	1	44.6	22.2	144	* * *			27.1	1			44.5				
Trismus nascentium	1	1			455											
Ulceration of stomach	2							***				1			++	100
Uremia	1	***														
Variola	4			2	1					1						5.
Variola confluent	2							1	1	4		2.44			++	
Whooping cough	22	11	10	1		23.6			+ + +							
Total	2522	560	187	193	98	38	48	346	462	324	147	82	22	- 5	1	1

TABLE II.

AGES OF DECEDENTS IN THE DIFFERENT MONTHS.

	Total			18	66.					18	67.		
Ages.		July	August	September	October	November	December	Лапингу	February .	March	April	May	June
Under 1 year of age	560	51	49	41	35	36	44	44	53	51	25	56	69
From 1 to 2 years of age	187	20	14	12	17	10	10	30	18	10	13	14	10
From 2 to 5 years of age	193	14	12	15		16	20	19	16	13	16	15	10
From 5 to 10 years of age	98	8	10	6	12	12	12	4	8	6	6	7	7
From 10 to 15 years of age	38	5	3 5	- 2	4	- 5	3	6	1	4	2	2	1
From 15 to 20 years of age	48	7		2	30	6.	2	4	6	3	5	2	2
From 20 to 30 years of age	346	23	29	2 2 28	30	33	32	37	19	40	23	22	30
From 30 to 40 years of age	462	36	48	28	56	29	45	29	38	41	38	39	35
From 40 to 50 years of age	324	31	24	33	32	31	31	33	15	23	27	24	20
From 50 to 60 years of age	147	11	18	12	12	12	14	12	12	12	12	12	8
From 60 to 70 years of age	82	5	- 6	7	7	10	3	7	9	5	6	12	5
From 70 to 80 years of age	22	1	1		2	1	3	1	4	2	1	3	3
From 80 to 90 years of age	5				1					2	2		
From 90 to 100 years of age	1	1											
Age unknown	9	1					4	: * * *	2			****	1
Total	2522	214	219	186	239	210	223	226	201	219	176	208	201

I---Concluded.

Maio Fi	Sa:	x.		Racs.	į						WA	RDS.						Public	Casu	Suicides
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		Female	Caucasian		African	1st Ward	2d Ward	3d Ward	4th Ward	5th Ward	6th Ward	7th Ward	8th Ward	9th Ward	10th Ward	11th Ward	12th Ward	ic Institutions	Casualties	des
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	14	833	2270	159	38	142	217	53	208	49	101	132	195	111	379	196	70	469	118	2
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669 853 2323 161 38 146 223 56 213 49 103 138 200 114 385 199 71 478	-1					·	·}		-	-	!	·		l—	I—	I	-	-	118	-

TABLE III.

SEX, RACE, AND NATIONALITY OF DECEASED PERSONS.

	Total			186	6.					186	37.		
Sex, Race, and Nativity.		July	Amanat	September	October	November	December	Јанцагу	February -	March	April	May	June
SEX. Male	1669 853	146 68	135 84	181 55	170 69	137 73	142 81	157 69	127 74	147 72	122 54	135 73	120
Total	2522	214	219	186	239	210	223	226	201	219	176	208	201
RACE. Cancasian	2323 161 38	194 15 5	198 18 3	165 18 3	222 12 5	202 2 6	207 13 3	207 15 4	190 9 2	199 18 2	163 11 2	192 14 2	184 16
Total	2522	214	219	186	239	210	223	226	201	219	176	208	201
Nativifies. United States Foreigners Unknown	1487 1028 7	135 78 1	122 97	110 76	133 106	126 84	123 100	139 85 2	129 70 2	125 93 1	99 77	119 89	127 73 1
Total	2522	214	219	186	239	210	223	226	201	219	176	208	201

TABLE IV.

NATIVITIES OF DECEDENTS.

	Total			18	66.					18	67.		
		July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February .	March	April	Маў	June
United States.													
California	1023	99	84	73	87	77	86	100	92	89	51	91	88
Missouri	9	ĭ			2	4		1			-		Ĩ
Massachusetts	89	6	8	7	12	Ιî	5	9	9	5	7	5	Ē
Dommani	31	4	3	٠ '	2	i	5	ľi	ĭ	2	5	1	1
Pennsylvania	129			12	11	11	16		10	11			1
New York		8	12	12			10	9			12	8	
Maine	30	2	4	• • • •	3	4	• • • •	4	2	5	1	4	1
Kentucky	14	1	2		1		1	2	1		2	3	1
Ohio	19	2		2	3		2	2		1	4	1	. 1
New Jersey	6	1	:	2		۱	i l	1	1		1	i . l	
Michigan	7	1		1	1		1		1	1	1		
Vermont	11	2		2	1	1	- 1	1	_		3		
Delaware	4	์ เ	• • • • •	_	_	Ιî	[]					!	•
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Iowa		1	• • • • •	1			• • • •			:	• • • • •	• • • •	• • • • •
Louisiana	7	1	1		• • • •	1 1			2	1 1	• • • • •	• • • •	,
Connecticut	11	1	1	• • • •		1	1	3	1	1	1	1	• • • •
Indiana	4	1		1	1			1					
Mississippi	1	1										l l	
Maryland	17	2		. 4	2	2	1	l	2	1	1	1	2
Nevada	7		1	2		3					1		
Illinois	7		2	1	1	2		1	1		_		
New Hampshire	13	1	ī	_	_	ī	2	3	ī	3			1
Virginia	10	••••	î	••••	i	î	1 1	1	2	2		-	1
	10		î	• • • •	-	1 *	∸			_	-		
Minnesota		••••	1	••••		i • • • •			• • • •		• • • •		• • • •
South Carolina	1	• • • •	1	• • • • •		• • • •	• • • •			• • • •	• • • •		• • • •
District of Columbia	4		• • • •	1	• • • •	1				1		1	• • • •
Washington Territory	4			1			1				1		1
Rhode Island	7				1	1	1		1	1		1	1
Wisconsin	3	l l			1	l	1	1		1	!		
Oregon	4				1	1		1					1
Florida	` 5			• • • •	ī	_		1	•••				1
Tennessee	7		• • • •	••••		1			• • • •				•
Idaha Mamitam	1		• • • • •	• • • • •		1		*	• • • •				• • • •
Idaho Territory	1		• • • •	• • • •		1 1	• • • •		• • • •		• • • •	• • • •	• • • • •
Georgia	1	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	• • • • •		• • • •		• • • •			• • • •	3
Arizona	1			• • • •			• • • •			• • • •			1
Colorado	1	• • • •	• • • •		••••	• • • •	اا						1
m-4-1	1405	105	100		100	100		100	100				100
Total	1487	135	122	110	133	126	123	139	129	125	99	119	12'

TABLE IV---Concluded.

FOREIGNERS.

				==									===
	Total	1866.								186	7 .		
		July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February .	March	April	Мау	June
FOREIGNERS. England Ireland Scotland British Provinces. France Germany Denmark Sweden Italy Spain Hanover China Sandwich Islands Chili Portugal Mexico Holland Western Islands Switzerland Russia Norway Hamburg Cape de Verde Islands Fejee Islands Peru Belgium Central America Brazil Africa Hayti Poland Bayaria Russian America Russiand Brussia	80 3300 27 33 75 138 15 17 21 13 3 3 3 5 5 8 12 13 3 3 3 5 5 16 3 3 3 3 5 16 11 17 2 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 1	100 200 20 20 11 66 99 11 33 44 22 33 14 11	12 288 4 4 4 10 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	2 2 4	13 26 4 3 7 7 13 2 2 19 2 2 1 1 1 1	66 222 433 61 111 112 255 	6 6 35 4 3 3 6 6 13 3 3	6 300 22 77 4 112 22 22 13 1	2 277 1 3 3 100 111 1 1 2 2	4 333 5 2 2 5 111	6 28 1 2 2 5 9 9 11 1 2 2 2 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	6 34 2 2 1 1 10 8 2 2 4 4	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	10 7 1035	79	97	76	106	84	100	87	72	94	77	 89	74
Total United States General Total	1487 2522	135 214	122 219	100	133 239	126 210	123 223	139 226	201	125 219	176	208	201

TABLE V.

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF MORTALITY.

Wards, Hospitals, Casualties, und Suicides.	Total	Top 1866.								1867.							
		July	Angust	September	October	November	December	Јаппасу	February	Murch	April	Миу	June				
First Ward	146	11 31	15	6	13	12	23 27	14 15	12 12	14 13	14 20	9	10				
Second Ward	223 56	1	7	4	3	22	7	9	4	13	3	18	20				
Fourth Ward	213	23	23	21		11	11	19	18	20	11	18	18				
Fifth Ward	49	3	3	3	20	7	7	9	4	4	5		1				
Sixth Ward	103	2	4	10	8	12	11	12	13	9	.5	5	12				
Seventh Ward	135	9	14	7	14	14	14	20	12	5	2	20	7				
Eighth Ward	200	22	16	17	18	17	15	14	17	14	8	23	19				
Ninth Ward	114	9	12	7	12	12	12	6	5,	12	12	7	8				
Tenth Ward	385	32	28	29	42	30	30	36	34	41	30	29	24 24				
Eleventh Ward	199	12	16	14	18	14	15	20	16	15	18	17					
Twelfth Ward	71	5	8	7	6	5	5	. 7	5	4	7	6	6				
Public Institutions	478	41	50	41	40	38	32	32	39	54	31	40	40				
Casualties	118	8	13	7	20	8	14	10	8	5	7	10	8				
Suicides	29	5	2	1	4	2		1	2	4	3	2	3				
Total	2522	214	219	186	239	210	223	226	201	219	176	208	201				

TABLE VI.

LOCALITIES OF DEATH FOR EACH MONTH.

Localities.	Total	1866.							1867.							
		July	August	September	October	November	Dacember	Јавину	February -	March	April	May	June			
Died in the City Wards City and County Hospital	1907 229	162 21	161 21	138 17		164 16	173 19	175 22	157 14	168 21	133 16	153 22	146 17			
United States Marine Hospital St. Mary's Hospital	24 94	9	3 13	9	5	10	5	8 6	10	7	6	4	12			
French Hospital.	39	3	2	3	5 3	3	2	-8	4	2	3	5	6			
German Hospital	37	4	5	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	1	4				
Fort Alcatraces Hospital				1												
Home for the Inebriate			1	1				1								
Roman Catholic Asylums			4 40	4	1	3	1	2	2	8	3	7	- 0			
Protestant Asylums County Jail (execution of sen-	3						1	****	1		***		1			
tence)	2	1		1					con.		cei.					
Casualties	118	7	11	6	22	8	16	10		5	7	10	8			
Suicides	29	5	2	1	4	2		1	2	4	3	2	3			
Total	2522	214	219	186	239	210	223	226	201	219	176	208	201			

RECAPITULATION.

Total number of deaths from July, 1866, to June, 1867.	2,522
White 2,32	3
Black	3
Copper	l -
Total	2,522
Adults	3
Minors	1
	_
Total	2,522
Deduct—Premeture births, 30; cyanosis, 11 4	1
Old age, 10; casualties, all classes, 118 12	3
Suicides, various, 29; execution of sentence, 2.	l
·	- 200
Leaving deaths from registered diseases	2,322
In addition to the above there were still-born 21	_
Country interment	2

Admitting the population of the city, for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1867, to be one hundred and thirty-five thousand, and the recorded deaths from diseases two thousand three hundred and twenty-two, we find the following per centage of deaths per annum, viz: one and five-sevenths (15).

Mortality per day, $6\frac{1}{3}$; mortality per month, $193\frac{1}{2}$; mortality per year, 2,322. Or, per diem, one in 20,925; per month, one in $697\frac{1}{2}$; per year, one in $58\frac{1}{8}$.

STILLBORN INFANTS.

	Total			18	66.			_		18	87.		
		July	August	September	October	November	December	Japuary	February .	March	April	Жау	June
Stillbirths each month	211	21	13	16	18	16	13	11	17	24	21	10	22

The large number of interments under this head should awaken the most profound concern and deepest regret on the part of the married community, yet its chief cause is a subject of too great delicacy to admit, with propriety, of public discussion in an official report like this; it is, however, a subject of vital importance to the well-being of society, and one which should be thoroughly understood by all parents who do, or do not desire issue.

MORTALITY OF INFANTS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE.

This large army of innocence, beauty, and promise swept down by the inexorable hand of death, ere life had scarce begun, and with them all the bright hopes and fond anticipations of parental ambition, is not without causes, which in many instances might be removed or materially mitigated. Our climate, the whole year round, is undoubtedly as healthy as that of any city in the world, but it needs to be properly understood, and its sudden changes guarded against with appropriate clothing. Adults make no mistake in this particular; ladies and gentlemen take their morning exercise in light, summer goods, while if their walk or ride is prolonged or deferred to past meridian, winter clothing, furs, shawls, capes, cloaks. and overcoats, are in requisition. But not so with these little victims of fashion. It is nothing uncommon to see the father, dressed in flannel underclothing from neck to heels, heavy cloth pants, vest, coat, and overcoat, taking his children out for an airing, dressed in the hight of fashion-with plaids and panties which have suffered fashion's amputation above the knee, and leaving the lower extremities unprotected save by light cotton hose and cloth gaiters. These little loved ones, look very pretty, but by being thus foolishly exposed to colds, coughs, and their concomitant results-diptheria or croup-they often, despite the doctor's skill, become a silent monitor to the parent of the wrong done them. Improper diet, both as to quality and quantity, is another fruitful source of disease and death among children. Swill milk has had its share in this work of infant mortality, but thanks to a discerning press and public opinion, not the law, a marked improvement has been wrought in this article in the babies' bill of fare during the past year; but there is still room for further improvement. Mothers cannot be too watchful as to the purity of the source of the milk upon which their children feed. Again, overcrowding the brain, trying to make a little man or woman out of a baby, kills numbers every year, who would, if left

to the pure and simple dictates of nature, grow to be healthy men and women; but this unnatural parental pride to see the children precocious and smart, this stuffing of the stomach and brain with food and ideas fit only for maturer years, together with fashionable exposure, go far to roll up this infant mortality which it is our painful duty to record.

PHTHISIS PULMONALIS.

Of this disease there are three hundred and twenty-four (324) cases reported for the year. This apparently large number of consumptives would naturally convey the impression that our climate is exceedingly favorable to the development of pulmonary diseases, but a more intimate acquaintance with all the facts in the premises would materially modify that opinion.

As will be seen by a reference to the tables, a very large percentage of the cases reported are from public institutions, who, with a majority of the balance, bring the disease with them, more or less matured, and really only come here to die. While we do not claim that San Francisco is a sanitarium for consumptives, we feel safe in the assertion (after a practice of eighteen (18) years in this city) that very few idiopathic cases of tuberculosis occur in San Francisco. Of aneurisms we have forty-one (41) cases; of heart disease sixty-eight (68) cases. This is a large percentage of the deaths reported; but when we consider that these cases are the result of exposure, severe labor, and working in water, as is the case with our mining population, we cease to wonder at the figures.

The number of casualties is unusually large, one hundred and eighteen (118); this increase may be attributed to the falling of the Summer Street House, the accident on board the steamer "Julia," and the great number of deaths from burns, during the year.

The roll of suicides is also in excess—twenty-nine (29); disappointed hopes have been the prevailing cause. Alas! for poor humanity, that cannot look stern necessity in the face, but must needs fly to the ills it knows not of.

We may congratulate ourselves upon the sobriety of the city during the past year; out of a population of one hundred and thirty-five thousand, there were but eight (8) deaths from "King Alcohol." This speaks volumes in favor of the habits of our people,

and tends to show that notwithstanding the great temptation to indulge in strong drinks, they are law-abiding, moral, and sober.

VACCINATION.

The number of vaccinations in this office during the last four months have been very great, viz; one hundred and eighty (180). This is, no doubt, owing to the Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, giving publicity to its prophylatic importance, together with the fact that free vaccination, with pure virus, in all cases, could be had at this office, for all applicants.

The spread of epidemic small pox is only prevented by universal vaccination and re-vaccination, together with the most rigid sanitary measures in regard to the seclusion of those who are attacked, in special hospitals, provided by a generous and cautious public. Availing ourselves of the means at our command for its prevention, the spread and mortality of this loathsome disease would always be circumscribed in its extent, and limited to a very small number.

An open question for professional debate in regard to the possibility of conveying other diseases by vaccination than the prophylatic discovered by the *immortal Jenner*, has never been lost sight of. None other than the purest matter, from young and healthy children, whose parentage and pedigree are known and approved, is used by the incumbent of this office.

Leaving the abstract theory of the duality of disease being contained in, and propagated from, one and the same vesicle, to be settled by the professional metaphysician, we take no chances for those who apply here for vaccination.

The number of children whose health is such as to merit the approval of virus obtained from their vaccination is comparatively small, hence good virus is always scarce. While we have always promptly and cheerfully farnished virus to all physicians from the country who have applied at this office, and that free of charge, we yet deem it a matter of vital importance for all physicians to keep a supply of fresh, pure matter, whenever and wherever it can be obtained.

SMALL POX.

The number of cases of this much dreaded disease reported at this

office during the last five months, was thirty. This comparatively small amount of mortality, which will be seen by reference to the statistical tables (especially small when it is considered that some of the cases were in "articulo mortis" when reported here), is due to the careful and prompt manner of their removal to the hospital, and the unremitting attention and skill of the hospital physician, Dr. Wm. T. Garwood.

Section 4. Chapter 3, General Orders, Board of Supervisors, ordains as follows:

No person shall construct or maintain upon his premises, or premises under his control, any privy or privy vault, without connecting the same with the street sewer in such a manner that it shall be effectually drained and purified.

The system of connecting cesspools and privies with the public sewers is one of the most reprehensible allowed by law. It throws into our sewers a flow of undiluted liquid of the most feetid character, rendering them in fact immense cesspools, filled with human ordure. Nothing more prejudicial to public health or offensive to the senses could well be devised, than the discharge of thousands of privy vaults into the street sewers. If such is the fact in our Atlantic cities (as experience has fully demonstrated in every instance, and the order has been rescinded), then it is most emphatically true in regard to San Francisco, where we have no rains for three-fourths of the year.

Should cholera break out in epidemic form in our city, the connecting of privy vaults with the public sewers would do more to spread it far and wide, than all other causes; unrestrained by any sanitary measures whatever. I would, therefore, respectfully ask your Honorable Board, for the reasons above stated, to rescind the Order.

Since my administration of the affairs of this office, there have been five hundred and thirty-one complaints of nuisance reported; of this number, one hundred and thirteen were, upon examination, found groundless; the balance, four hundred and eighteen, were abated. And I would here say, that San Francisco, cosmopolitan in its character, and made up of every grade of humanity from every clime, has proved to be a law-abiding city; for, without coercion, threats, or arrests, the people have cheerfully responded to requests or orders of the attachés of this office, and have complied with the requirements of the law.



NON-RESIDENTS.

I would ask your Honorable Board to take such steps as in your wisdom you may think fit, to have a law passed by the next Legislature, to make the property of non-residents responsible for infractions of the Health Laws of this city; great hardship and much sickness is caused by the lack of power on the part of the Health Officer to abate nuisance when the owner of the property complained of is absent from the State; hence, vacant lots owned by them are frequently covered with pools of stagnant water, and are generally made the dumping ground for filth of all sorts by the surrounding neighborhood; and yet, for want of legislation, this office is powerless to remedy the evil.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The proper location of the slaughter houses or abattoirs for the city, is, and has been, a vexed question. In a sanitary as well as a commercial point of view, this matter is one of vital importance to the public. The unfitness of the present location of the slaughter houses is apparent to the most casual observer; situated as they are, on the sluggish waters of Mission creek, it requires two or three tides to carry the offal to the bay, where a great portion of it drifts in on our irregular water front, putrifying in the sun, and sending up its pestilential gases, poisoning the atmosphere of our city, and causing disease wherever it abounds.

I would respectfully suggest to your Honorable Body, that the most important sanitary point in connection with this subject, is the providing for the present and future population of this great and growing city, healthy butchers' meat; to secure this great desideratum, healthy animals to be slaughtered, the proper and careful driving to the abattoirs, proper rest, food, and drink after driving, the most approved and humane mode of slaughtering, dressing, and cooling before sending to market for sale, low temperature, pure air, close proximity to the city, accessibility, cheapness, both for driving stock and transporting their food, as well as cheap and ready transit from the abattoirs to the city markets, all are important points for your consideration.

I cannot too earnestly recommend to your Honorable Body the sanitary and commercial importance of a proper location for the slaughter houses, with a view to securing all the above named points, together with proper drainage, and such improved manner of construction as shall be thought proper. This will go far to settle this long vexed question to the satisfaction of the public, and in justice to that respectable and industrious class of our fellow-citizens, the butchers.

In conclusion, we may congratulate ourselves that our death record shows a much smaller amount of mortality than any other American city, and that, under circumstances infinitely less favorable, this is due to the salubrity of our climate, the abundance of food, the absence of poverty, the skill and attention of our numerous physicians, and the blessings of an all-bountiful Providence, for which we should be truly and fervently thankful.

I. ROWELL, M. D., Health Officer.









